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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **June 26, 2007**

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UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TEAMS UP WITH SCHOOLS TO PRODUCE CYBER SAFETY VIDEO

Program Available for Viewing Online

SACRAMENTO - Parents concerned about the unsupervised time their children will spend on the Internet this summer can now access an educational program designed to protect against online predators.

United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools David W. Gordon announce the release of a one-hour video to help instruct parents, teachers and youth of the dangers of unrestricted Internet use and how to protect children from online predators.

"Keeping Kids Cyber Safe: A Family's Guide to Internet Protection," was produced by the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) in conjunction with the United States Attorney of the Eastern District of California, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Sacramento Valley High Tech Crimes Task Force and the Elk Grove Unified School District.

"The Internet is an extraordinary educational resource, but unfortunately many predators lurk online," said Superintendent Gordon. "This video shows parents what dangers to look for and how to protect their children."

"There is no greater ally for law enforcement in educating parents and children on Internet safety than our schools. The United States Department of Justice applauds the Sacramento County Office of Education and the Elk Grove Unified School District for their commitment to protect our children from online predators," said United States Attorney Scott.

On February 20, 2007, the Sacramento based United States Attorneys Office hosted a community forum at Sheldon High School in the Elk Grove Unified School District. The forum featured experts on Internet safety, including Katie Canton, who shared her experiences of being victimized by an online predator at the age of 15. Katie, now a college student, is a spokesperson for WebWiseKids, a not for profit organization that produces Internet safety programs and games for families, students and schools.

The program offers important safety tips for parent and kids when exploring the virtual world of the Internet. It is designed to educate parents about the potential danger to their children from sexual predators on the Internet.

The program is available for viewing online by logging onto www.scoe.net/doj. The video is also being made available – at no cost - to schools, libraries and community groups. Those groups interested in obtaining a copy of the program should contact Assistant United States Attorney Laurel White at (916) 554-2780.

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